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Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
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Integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice

Belarus: draft resolution

Preventing and combating technology-facilitated trafficking in persons

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and sustainable development,

Recalling all relevant United Nations resolutions and recent special meetings on trafficking in persons held by the main organs of the United Nations with a mandate relating to trafficking in persons that addressed various aspects of the crime,

Emphasizing the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, in particular in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] and recalling targets 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, on eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and

* E/CN.15/2018/1.
[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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by 2025 end child labour in all its forms, and ending abuse and exploitation of, trafficking in and all forms of violence against and torture of children,

Noting the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that the spread of information and communications technologies and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop knowledge societies, as does scientific and technological innovation across diverse areas,

Acknowledging that information and communications technologies, in particular digital and networked technologies, alter the flow of information between people and, as a result, have an impact on social interactions, practices and behaviour,

Bearing in mind that the development of information and communications technologies and the increasing use of the Internet has created new opportunities for offenders and has facilitated the growth of crime,

Welcoming the adoption, at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held at United Nations Headquarters on 27 and 28 September 2017, of the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[4] in which Member States, inter alia, noted with concern the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies, in particular the Internet, to facilitate trafficking in persons and emphasized the importance of countering such use while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to privacy, in compliance with other obligations under international law,

Recognizing that traffickers are taking advantage of information and communications technologies to reach larger audiences and to carry out trafficking in persons more quickly and efficiently across greater distances,

Aware that, in the facilitation of trafficking in persons, criminals use, inter alia, various online open and classified advertisement and adult sites, various social networks and the darknet,

Aware also that information and communications technologies have been used to facilitate various aspects of trafficking in persons, including advertisement, grooming, recruitment, movement, exploitation, control of victims and financial transactions, as well as the various forms of trafficking for exploitation, including sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, removal of organs, forced marriage, sex tourism and the production and distribution of child sexual abuse material,

Concerned that the online resources used for the facilitation of trafficking in persons can be accessed through mobile applications and smartphones, which are particularly popular among children and adolescents, thereby making them increasingly vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

Noting with concern the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies to facilitate trafficking in persons, in particular, the sale and trade, by certain terrorist groups, and emphasizing the importance of countering such use as part of counter-terrorism efforts while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law,

Recognizing the potential of the Internet and other information and communications technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims, and stressing the need for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard to address the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies,

Highlighting the utility of the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol in strengthening international cooperation for the prevention of,

[4] General Assembly resolution 72/1.

investigation into and prosecution of trafficking in persons facilitated through information and communications technologies in cases where the offence is transnational in nature and involves an organized criminal group,

Recalling article 27, paragraph 3, of the Organized Crime Convention, which requires States parties to endeavour to cooperate within their means in order to respond to transnational organized crime committed through the use of modern technology,

Conscious of the challenges faced by States, in particular developing countries, in preventing and combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, including for trafficking in persons, and emphasizing the need to continue international cooperation in this regard and to reinforce technical assistance and capacity-building activities, at the request of States, for the prevention, prosecution and punishment of such use, in accordance with national and international law,

Underlining the importance of education on the safe and secure use of information and communications technologies, in particular among vulnerable groups, with a view to addressing the factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

Stressing the importance of using the potential of online crowdsourcing, that is, of outsourcing a task to an undefined, generally large group of people, and of online flagging, that is, indicating and banning resources that are known to be involved in the facilitation of crime, for involving the broader public in anti-trafficking efforts,

Taking note of the *Study on the Effects of New Information Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children* by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Taking note also of the comprehensive study on cybercrime prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime under the auspices of the Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration new methods of recruiting victims of trafficking in persons, such as the use of the Internet by traffickers to, in particular recruit children, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries to identify the signs of trafficking in persons, and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

3. *Also calls upon* Member States to develop responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in persons that avoid fixation on particular technologies but are instead agile and adaptable to constant change in information and communications technologies and that take into account both the protection of individual freedoms and privacy and the preservation of the capacity of States to fight such crimes;

4. *Underlines* the importance for Member States to develop effective cooperation between their law enforcement authorities and Internet service providers in order to prevent and combat technology-facilitated trafficking in persons;

5. *Encourages* businesses to leverage technology applications in order to identify trafficking risks and to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in their supply chains;

6. *Encourages* civil society organizations to contribute to the prevention and combating of technology-facilitated trafficking in persons through their awareness-raising campaigns based, inter alia, on the use of information and communications technologies;

7. *Encourages* the academic and research communities to explore the impact of information and communications technologies on trafficking in persons, including how such technologies can be utilized to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in its various forms and to assist victims of trafficking;

8. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide, upon request and in cooperation with Member States, relevant international organizations and the private sector, technical assistance and training to States, in particular developing countries, to improve national legislation and build capacities to prevent and combat trafficking in persons that is facilitated through the use of information and communications technologies;

9. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as a coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, to discuss the issue of technology-facilitated trafficking in persons at a meeting of the Group;

10. *Invites* the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to consider developing recommendations for measures to prevent and combat technology-facilitated trafficking in persons;

11. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations, for the implementation of the relevant paragraphs of the present resolution;

12. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to submit a report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.